

October 2021

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
701 Broadway Street
Thompson, ND 58278
(701)-599-2081
stmatthewslutheranchurch.org

The Messenger

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." -Isaiah 6:8

It's wedding season! Well – our wedding just happened last week and that's all I can think of. Planning was very exciting, but also very stressful. Beth and I are grateful for your well wishes and blessings in this moment of our lives.

Speaking of weddings...read Luke 14:1-11.

I am sure a lot of you will know what I am about to reference here. At most wedding receptions, there are usually a few seats set aside for the bridal team and the groomsmen. These seats are at the front of the room, usually at a table set up slightly a little higher than everyone else's tables. The table is nicely adorned with the best things at the wedding and the seats are usually much nicer and more comfortable than the rest of the chairs at the wedding. When it's time to eat, the people seated at the front get served first, while everyone else has to get up and stand in a line to get their food. The people in these seats are the most distinguished people at the wedding. They are the VIPs.

Today, Jesus gives us some very practical advice about occasions like weddings. He rightly advises us that if we are ever at someone's wedding, we don't just assume where we are to seat because of who we are or what we think of ourselves. We have tables and seats assigned to us. Imagine this, even if you are the president of the United States and you attend someone's wedding, you won't get a seat at the high table unless you are a bridesmaid or groomsman. That is something, isn't it? At a wedding, it doesn't matter who you are in life, you don't get to seat at the high table unless you are on "team bride."

Jesus goes on to advise us that it is actually better to seat at the lower places and then be invited to seat at the high table than to be asked to move down because that would be humiliating and embarrassing.

Today's reading is a practical one that we can all relate to. The advice Jesus gives us actually extends to all areas of life. We live in a world that is hierarchical. To survive, you have to know your place and understand what you can or cannot do. Otherwise the world itself will turn on you and put you in your rightful place. We all fit into well defined categories and classes based on wealth, education, merit, societal norms, and so many more qualifiers. Some people, just by the color of their skin have a higher status than others – it's actually very crazy if you think about it for a minute. In our world, some things are easier if you are a man versus to if you are a woman. It matters which side of a border you are born on because life is way better for those on one side compared to others born on the other side. Who you are and whatever it is that identifies you matters...in this world.

However, while pointing this out, Jesus today reveals something that is very important about God's kingdom. Jesus affirms what he has already talked about and what we talk about every Sunday when we gather for communion: that those who feast at the Lord's Table are truly blessed.

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Blessed are you who are invited to the Lord's Table. Because at the Lord's Table, there are no assigned seats. There is no high table with comfier chairs than everyone else's. In the kingdom of God, there is no hierarchy. There is no favorable treatment based on class or status or merit. In God's kingdom we are all equal, judged solely on one thing and one thing alone... God's love for each and every one of us.

It doesn't matter who you are or what you may or may not have done. Jesus is giving out invitations to feast at God's table to everyone who will listen to what he has to say. That is the definition of grace. To be loved and invited to a feast where who you are doesn't matter but only that you have a heart that is open to the blessings of God that have been freely given to you.

And so, if we think about it, who are we in this world to enforce a system of exclusion and discrimination? Who are we to judge people based on which class they fall into because of societal systems and categories?

Jesus today, reveals the upside-down nature of the kingdom of God. Many of those who presume that they will be included because of their social status or even their morality, have a very big chance of finding themselves surprised, and have their places taken by those people they considered of lesser standing.

Jesus invites us to never think highly of ourselves or better than others because there is a very big chance that those people we think less of are actually the ones that Jesus is seeking out. The same is true for us when we think lowly of ourselves or think that because of something that has happened to us then we are not worthy of God's love. God loves you just as you are, period!

Pastor Tawanda Murinda.



The October LYO Gatherings will be on Wednesday, October 13th and 27th @ 6:30pm. All youth, Freshman through Senior, are welcome.

The Youth Team is looking for adults to help out with the Group. If you are interested in Christian fellowship and having fun; let Steve or Shannon Hancock know.



ALL 9th graders will meet on October 6th at 6:30pm for a Confirmation Mini-Retreat. We will do a recap, work on our Faith Statements and get fitted for Confirmation gowns.

Faith Formation

Education News



'Rally Sundae' was a huge success! Thank you to all of our newly installed Sunday school and Confirmation teachers! And thank you to all of the students who showed up to celebrate the first day of Sunday school!

We have a TON of exciting things planned for our Sunday school students this year. The Education and Outreach teams have teamed up to offer incentives for our students and to help people WAY outside of our doors!

Our goal with this incentive program is to encourage the following:

- 1) regular attendance,
- 2) the students bringing their Bibles each Sunday, and
- 3) good behavior.

The program goes as follows, each Sunday our students have the opportunity to earn up to 80 "Outreach Points" if they accomplish all of the above items. Each Outreach Point equals a monetary value which will be donated to Heifer International. We will pool all of our students points by Christmas and hold a "Living Gift Market" which the entire congregation will also be invited to participate in. This is a charity event which allows attendees to purchase living gifts like goats, cows, flocks of chicks, a hive of honeybees, tree seedlings, etc. Holding a "Living Gift Market" is a great way to engage our entire congregation and community in providing gifts which are fundamental for a life free of poverty for families in need.

In order to keep track of points, each classroom will have an "Outreach Board". The board will have three different sections for each student to mark off what they have contributed to each Sunday.

The students will earn "Outreach Points", in the form of stickers, to add to each of these sections each Sunday.

Attendance -	Cow Sticker-	40 Outreach Points
Bible -	Duck Sticker-	20 Outreach Points
Good Behavior -	Bee Sticker-	20 Outreach Points

Each class will have the opportunity to decide what their class wants to work towards earning points for. They will have the following options: Flock of chicks, sheep, water buffalo, alpaca, ducks, or honeybees. They will be given a point value for each item and will be able to set their goals. Sponsorships and outside donations are always welcome. We are excited to see where we are at and how much of an impact our students will be able to make by Christmas!

Education News continued

Each class will also be encouraged to bring their spare change to donate to their class funds one Sunday a month when we have **"Donuts for Ducks Day"**. Students can contribute to their individual class fund and they will have donuts for snack that day! No contribution required to get a donut ;)



Donuts for Ducks Dates - 10/03, 10/31, 11/21, & 12/12



Take home notes were handed out to each student in attendance on Rally Sunday. These notes included important dates for our entire year. They also included each class's memory work. Due to Covid, we have fallen behind on our memory work. This year we would like to make it a priority. Each Sunday during class there will be time devoted to memory work and we highly encourage you to work on memory work at home if time allows.



Bible Sunday will take place on Sunday, October 3rd! During worship the Preschoolers and the 3rd grade class will receive their new Bibles.

At 2pm that Sunday the 3rd grade class is invited to a mini-retreat at 2pm at the church to further explore their new Bibles with Pastor Tawanda.

If you have any questions in regards to Sunday school, please feel free to contact Sarah @ 218-791-4216

In His Grace,
The Education Team



NO CLASSES for
Confirmation
on October 20

NO CLASSES for Sunday
School on October 24



The church office is open 9am-Noon Monday through Thursday, but please check the church calendar for a particular day as sometimes there are changes.

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church anytime. He is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact him to set up a time to meet. His day off is Friday.

Pastor Tawanda will be out of the office October 8th—24th. He and Bethany will be traveling to Zimbabwe to visit family.



Sunday School Registration

Student's Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____

Students' Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____

Students' Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Allergies/other medical conditions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Does St. Matthew's have permission to use your child(s) image on our website and/or social media? Yes/No

Do you grant permission for your child to view G rated movies? Yes/No

Has your child been baptized?: Yes/No

Would you like information in regards to Baptism? Yes/No

Are you a member of St. Matthew's? Yes/No

Would you like information about becoming a member?: Yes/No

Please place in the education mailbox.

Questions: Contact Sarah @ 218-791-2416





PLEASE JOIN US FOR

ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL

FALL
FESTIVAL



CHURCH AT 10 AM

LUNCH TO FOLLOW

STAY FOR FUN AND GAMES

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH



GAGA PIT
GAMES FOR ALL AGES

HAY RIDE

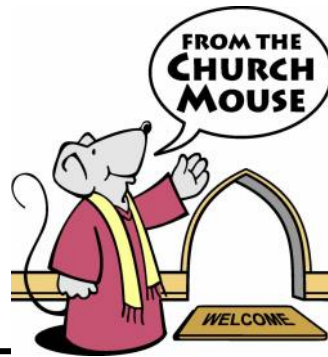
PRIZES

BOUNCY HOUSES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT WITH THIS EVENT.
IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT BROOK AT 701-741-1757



Thanks to everyone who lends a hand for making the ministry at St. Matthew's happen! Here are a few folks we would like to thank this month! We apologize if we miss anyone!



The church mouse would like to thank:

- Sarah K for all of her work to organize Education for our kids
- Bill W for helping us keep our cool this summer
- All of our teachers for Confirmation and Sunday School

Together we can do God's Work with Our Hands!



PAUL & BROOKE BAKKE AND WARREN
SEAN & MICHELE BURGER AND GRACE
BETHANY KLEMETSRUD

KELBY & ANGIE LAXDAL AND WILLOW AND SCARLETT

CHRIS & TIFFANY ROOD AND MADISON AND CARSON

RYAN & TAMMY UHING AND MADISON, JOCELYNN AND CHARLES

KODEY SCHUPPERT & KIMBERLY MOHAGEN AND BROOKLYN,

BRODY AND AUBREY

NATHAN & MELISSA BERGER AND NATALIE, LIAM AND CHANCE

KRIS MOEN

Happy Birthday in October!

- 1 Nicholas Berthold, Bailey Munson
- 2 Josie Schumacher, Lydia Peterson
- 4 Reese Barker
- 5 Josh Barker, Gretchen Guetter, Haley Hegg
- 6 Mary Welsh
- 8 Kaylee Kurz, Zachary Sivertson
- 11 Haleigh Krogfoss, Charlie Johnson
- 12 Taylor Krogfoss, Chuck Welke
- 13 Curtis Gilberg, Kinsley Pearson
- 15 Jill Schumacher, Chance Berger
- 16 Layne Johnson
- 18 Rebecca Derosier, Darwin Potter
- 19 William Welke
- 21 Cheryl Arntz, Amy Benoit, Stephanie Broyles
- 22 Reece Berberich
- 24 Samuel Halvorson, David Krogfoss, Emma Schumacher
- 26 Amy Bergeron, Drew Overby, Shawn Widman
- 27 John Sorby
- 29 Jordan Senger, Liam Berger
- 30 David Stevens



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Date: September 12, 2021

In Attendance: Steve Hancock, Ryan Welsh, Scott Kuster, Val Uhler, Paul Strande, Brook Fretheim, Duane Naas, Sara Munson, Pastor Tawanda, Robyn Bohlman

Absent: Sarah Krogfoss

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Paul Strande at 11:11am. Pastor Tawanda led the opening prayer.

Agenda Approval: Brooke Fretheim moved, Ryan Welsh seconded to approve the agenda. MPU.

Minutes Approval: Steve Hancock was present but wasn't listed. Paul Strande moved, Val Uhler seconded to approve the minutes with correction. MPU.

Financial Reports: General Giving income for August was \$ 8217.11 As of August 31, the General Giving checking account balance is \$ 19614.73. Special Giving checking is \$30,263.19. Our line of credit is \$0. Our Net income is \$1534.69.

Approval: Steve Hancock moved, Sara Munson seconded to approve financial. MPU

Calendar Review: WELCA will meet Sept 26. Confirmation October 31.

Pastor's Report: New member Sunday, October 3.

Men's Club & WELCA report: WELCA— meeting Sept 26- will discuss Festival of Tables (whether to have it) and officers. We cleaned the kitchen.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: Meeting this Wednesday to discuss Pastor's benefit package.

Education: Sarah Krogfoss – 23 families registered for Sunday School so far. Calendar has been set for Sunday School year. Rally Sunday, September 19th. First day of Sunday school. "Sundae Theme". Bible Sunday will be October 3-PreK & 3rd graders receiving their bibles. 3rd grade will have a small retreat at 2pm.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – Met with Chelsea Lupien about Ruby's pantry. Chelsea will meet with council in October. Table talk coming up. New members Sunday will have cake. Working on fall festival, October 10. Will be bringing prepackaged items to sugar beet pre-pile from St Matthew's. Early stages of planning a 'Renew' day.

Outreach: Brook Fretheim – Fall Festival coming up. Looking at collecting items for Kinship Care for God's Work Our Hands.

Food Pantry – 332 lbs of food went to 7 families – got approval to send notes home from school with information about the food pantry.

Properties: Duane Naas- general upkeep is continuing. Will dispose of the floor cleaner at city wide cleanup.

Worship: Val Uhlir – People can now sign up to help with worship online - under worship when it is your month.

Youth: Steve Hancock – Steve will need to step away after Sept 22 meeting as having a major surgery. Looking for some people to help out with youth group.

Old Business

Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font – tabled

Bid from HB Sound-tabled

Ruby's Pantry - tabled

Child Care Center at St Matthew's -working to get a meeting with Red River Regional Council and exec team.

2nd PPP Loan – got paperwork from First State Bank – looks like 2nd one will be forgiven also

New Business

Behavior guidelines during confirmation class-

Deadline for 2022 Budget requests – each team needs to have an estimate by next council meeting.

Next council meeting will be Monday, October 11 at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn made by Scott Kuster, seconded by Duane Naas. MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Bohlman



October

Steve & Shannon Hancock Family

Duane & Chris Naas

Ryan & Liz Welsh Family

Bill & Cheryl Widman



All women of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
are welcome to
Women's Bible Study
Monday, October 18th at 7:00 pm
at the Church



**The Food Pantry is open
during October on Tuesday,
October 12 from
11:00 am-1:00 pm and Tues-
day, October 26 from
6:00-8:00 pm.**

If you or someone you know
could use the assistance of
the food pantry, please let
them know, or come to the
pantry during their open
hours.



The Confirmation Kids will be doing door-to-door
Trick-or-Treating for canned goods
for the Thompson Food Pantry on
Wednesday, October 27 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Please, **NO EXPIRED FOOD!!**

Please welcome them and **THANK YOU** for your
generosity in your giving, it is always appreciated!

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather on Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary, but new folks are always welcome to join them.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER This gathering is open to anyone, and meets at 7:00 am on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary. This group spends time in responsive prayer, and then enjoys a cup of coffee as well. They are off to work by 7:30. Come and join us as a great way to focus midweek!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group meets in the Rosendal Room on the third Monday of the month. Their next gathering will be on Monday, October 18th at 7:00pm. All women of St. Matthew's are welcome!

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

All services live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278 (701) 599-2081

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor Tawanda Murinda	Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	Admin Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
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Paul Strande	President	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Ryan Welsh	Vice President	rswelsh@invisimax.com
Robyn Bohlman	Secretary	rbohlman@invisimax.com
Scott Kuster	Treasurer	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Brook Fretheim	Outreach Team	brook.fretheim@tps-k12.org
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